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The impact of heavy metals from environmental tobacco smoke on indoor air quality as determined by Compton suppression neutron activation analysis.

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The method of instrumental neutron activation analysis (NAA) has been improved for air filter samples in the determination of low level heavy metals in indoor air. By using the techniques of epithermal neutron irradiation in conjunction with Compton suppression, the detection limits of cadmium, arsenic and antimony measurements have been dramatically reduced to 2 ng for Cd, 0.2 ng for As, and 0.03 ng for Sb. The determination of these heavy metals in particulate material generated from cigarette smoking in indoor environments has been conducted. Other elements, Br, Cl, Na, K, Zn were also found at elevated levels.

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Abstract

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